

ATTACHMENT “A”

Summary of Correspondence on Effluent Disposal Issues: Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the City of Rio Dell

Rio Dell Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Effluent Disposal Issues

Key Participants:

Kirsten James, RWQCB
Tom Dunbar, RWQCB
Loretta Nickolaus, former Rio Dell City Manager
Jim Stretch, former Rio Dell Interim City Manager
Jim Bule, former Rio Dell Interim City Manager
Patricia A. Medina, former Rio Dell Interim City Manager
Eli Naffah, current Rio Dell City Manager
Ken Dean, Rio Dell WWTF Contract Operator
Rick Chicora, Rio Dell WWTF Operator
Steve McHaney, Rio Dell City Engineer, Winzler & Kelly
Jim Grabow, Rio Dell Public Works Director

July 17, 2001

RWQCB inspection of WWTF (Tom Dunbar, Kirsten James, Ben Zabinsky, Miguel Villicana)
Seepage out of lower percolation pond.

September 7, 2001

RWQCB inspection of WWTF (Emily Dean)
Seepage out of lower percolation pond.

September 10, 2001

Kirsten James Sends Letter to Rio Dell
Describes July 17, 2001 and September 7, 2001 inspections that discovered failing percolation pond. Requests immediate rehabilitation of pond.

September 14, 2001

Ken Dean Sends Letter to RWQCB
“.... The City of Rio Dell will be seeking a more permanent solution to this problem.”
[percolation pond failure]

September 18, 2001

Kirsten James inspects WWTF

Notes failing lower percolation pond.

October 9, 2001

Kirsten James Sends Letter to Loretta Nickolaus

Summarizes July 17, September 7 and September 18 inspections of failing percolation pond. Reiterate that a long-term solution is needed.

November 5, 2001

Loretta Nickolaus Sends Letter to RWQCB

"...We have attempted to rehabilitate the percolation ponds to prevent seepage for the short term, but will need to look at more permanent alternatives for long term stability. We have already been in contact with the city engineer to discuss our options."

December 7, 2001

Meeting between RWQCB and City of Rio Dell (Kirsten James, Tom Dunbar, Jim Stretch, Ken Dean, Steven McHaney, and Rick Chicora)

The City Engineer is helping develop alternatives to the percolation pond. Irrigation and off-site percolation ponds were discussed as possibilities.

January 11, 2002

Kirsten James Sends Letter to Rio Dell

Asks for a detailed time schedule for completing full compliance.

February 18, 2002

Memo from Steve McHaney, Rio Dell City Engineer

Effluent Management Analysis Preliminary Summary and Project Schedule.

February 27, 2002

Letter from Jim Stretch to RWQCB

States the City will try to modify the pond before they undergo an alternative analysis and implementation plan.

March 29, 2002

Kirsten James Sends Letter to Rio Dell

States the wait-and-see approach is unacceptable (Referring to 2/27/02 letter). Requests a list of tasks and proposed time schedule for long-term compliance with Permit.

April 26, 2002

Letter from Jim Stretch to RWQCB

"We know that you question whether this rehabilitation [of the percolation ponds] will be successful, but this is the most expedient approach the City can take to make improvements that meet the permit requirements... If the rehabilitation proves unsuccessful, the City Engineer will analyze other wastewater effluent management alternatives that will comply with the permit requirements."

May 22, 2002

Meeting between Kirsten James, Jim Bule, Public Works staff, and City Engineers.
Consensus that a long-term plan to address sludge-handling and disposal and alternatives to current percolation pond is needed.

June 3, 2002

Kirsten James Sends Letter to Jim Bule
Asks for timelines and schedule of planned efforts (they already missed the first deadline to submit a plan to RWQCB).

June 10, 2002

Letter from Jay Parrish, Rio Dell Mayor, to RWQCB
Scope of Work received at RWQCB for Wastewater Effluent Management Alternatives Analysis.

July 9, 2002

Meeting between Tom Dunbar, Kirsten James, members of the Rio Dell City Council (Jay Parrish, Rich Gillarduci, Bud Leonard) and City staff (Eli Naffah, Rick Chicora and Steve McHaney)
Discussed short-term and long-term solutions for Rio Dell's effluent disposal and RWQCB answered the Council's questions.

October 6, 2002

Call between Kirsten James and Rick Chicora
Rick informed RWQCB that owner of parcel "A," a possible water reclamation site, is no longer interested in accepting reclaimed water.

October 9, 2002

Conference call with Tom Dunbar, Kirsten James, Eli Naffah
RWQCB expressed concerns that there is no time schedule or a proposal for effluent disposal.

October 24, 2002

Memo from Steve McHaney
States that Council directed him to pursue only the irrigation concept, rather than preparing a comprehensive long term wastewater disposal alternative analysis. States that he recommends long range comprehensive planning but the council is not prepared to make the investment at this time. Includes new scope of services to look at water reclamation at two specific properties (parcels "B" and "C").

October 28, 2002

E-mail from Kirsten James to Eli Naffah
"I am worried about the City securing parcels B and C. The owners of parcel A backed out, and this could happen with the other two parcels. A contract with the owners or the City purchasing properties could remedy this potential problem..."

November 1, 2002

Kirsten James Sends Letter to Eli Naffah

"Your implementation plan proposes the evaluation of sites "B" and "C." There does not seem to be a complete investigation of parcel alternatives for long-term planning options. You need to confirm that these parcels will meet long-term needs. A contract should be secured with these property owners to assure long-term use. Using City-owned property would also solve this potential problem."

November 5, 2002

Rio Dell City Council meeting, Kirsten James present

Council discussed the City Engineer's proposal for a scope of work to study the feasibility of irrigation on the parcels "B" and "C". RWQCB indicates that Rio Dell is running short of time to get an alternative effluent disposal method permitted. RWQCB also mentions that the scope of work does not show how long-term effluent disposal will be accomplished. The Council accepted the engineer's plan but did not address the long-term effluent disposal issue.

December 23, 2002

Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) for Rio Dell WWTF received by RWQCB.
Report is incomplete.

December 23, 2002

"City of Rio Dell Treated Effluent Irrigation Project Field Permeability Tests, Pump and Main Sizing, and CEQA Compliance" report submitted to RWQCB
Report includes analysis of sites "B" and "C" but concludes that they will only use site "B" and percolation ponds.

January 2, 2003

Email from Kirsten James to Jim Grabow
Lists missing and incomplete parts in ROWD.

January 6, 2003

Conference Call between Kirsten James, Tom Dunbar, Jim Grabow, Steve McHaney
Discuss issues relating to Engineer's analysis of Rio Dell's water reclamation possibilities. RWQCB indicates several issues with the plan and asks for an updated report. Rio Dell informs RWQCB that the negotiations for parcel "C" had not been successful.

January 13, 2003

Updated Version of "City of Rio Dell Treated Effluent Irrigation Project Field Permeability Tests, Pump and Main Sizing, and CEQA Compliance" report submitted to RWQCB.
Report concludes that sites "B" will be used, in addition to the WWTF grounds and the percolation ponds.

February 3, 2003

Kirsten James calls Rick Chicora and Eli Naffah

Informed that site "B" owner does not want water reclamation activities on their property.

City had not been negotiating with the property owner, but the owner's son. RWQCB

pulls Rio Dell NPDES revision from the March 2003 Board agenda.